

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 180146 TOSEC 080132
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UNCLAS STATE 180146 TOSEC 080132

FOR CARTER FROM PA

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE BY LORETTA TOFANI, MONDAY, JULY 17, ENTITLED "BYRD: ONE MORE RASH RE-MARK AND YOUNG 'SHOULD GO'.

2. SENATE MAJORITY LEADER ROBERT C. BYRD (D-W.VA.) SAID YESTERDAY THAT U.N. AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG'S REMARKS ON AMERICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE OF "SUFFICIENT GRAV-ITY THAT RESIGNATION SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED" AND THAT IF YOUNG MAKES ANOTHER "IRRESPONSIBLE" STATEMENT HE SHOULD BE FIRED.

3. LAST WEEK, WHILE TWO LEADING DISSIDENTS WERE ON TRIAL IN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES WAS CONDEMNING
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PAGE 02 STATE 180146 TOSEC 080132

SOVIET TREATMENT OF THEM, YOUNG TOLD A FRENCH NEWSPAPER THAT THERE ARE "HUNDREDS, MAYBE EVEN THOUSANDS OF POLI-TICAL PRISONERS" IN U.S. JAILS.

4. SPEAKING YESTERDAY ON THE TELEVISION PROGRAM "FACE THE NATION" (CBS, WDVM), BYRD SAID YOUNG'S REMARK WAS THE "MOST SERIOUS OF A SERIES OF IRRESPONSIBLE AND RASH STATEMENTS"

AND THAT IT UNDERCUT CARTER ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO WIN

BETTER SOVIET TREATMENT OF DISSIDENTS. THE REMARK GAVE
"SUCCOR AND COMFORT" TO THE SOVIET UNION, BYRD SAID.

5. HE SAID HE TOLD PRESIDENT CARTER AND YOUNG THAT HE
WAS "DISTURBED" BY THE STATEMENT AND THAT "IT WAS A
MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO ME AND MY COLLEAGUES."

6. "HE'S MADE SEVERAL IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS, AND I
THINK THAT THIS LAST ONE WAS OF SUFFICIENT GRAVITY THAT
RESIGNATION SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED," THE SENATOR
SAID. "AND IF HE MAKES ANOTHER IRRESPONSIBLE STATE-
MENT THAT FITS INTO THIS PATTERN OF BAD JUDGMENT, I
THINK HE SHOULD GO."

7. YOUNG LATER SAID HE MEANT THAT THERE ARE "POLITICAL
PRISONERS" IN U.S. JAILS, BUT SAID THAT THE TERM "POLI-
TICAL PRISONER" COULD BE DEFINED IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

8. HE SAID HE HAD NEVER "EQUATED THE STATUS OF POLITICAL
FREEDOM IN THE U.S. WITH THAT IN THE SOVIET UNION. I
KNOW OF NO INSTANCE IN THE U.S. WHERE PERSONS HAVE
RECEIVED PENALTIES FOR MONITORING OUR GOVERNMENT'S POSI-
TION ON CIVIL OR HUMAN RIGHTS."

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PAGE 03 STATE 180146 TOSEC 080132

9. PRESIDENT CARTER TELEPHONED YOUNG SATURDAY MORNING
AND CHASTIZED HIM FOR HIS REMARK. "ANDY AGREED THAT IT
WAS A MISTAKE, AND AN UNFORTUNATE ONE, AND HE APOLOGIZED
FOR THE PROBLEMS HE CAUSED," WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
JODY POWELL SAID.

10. BYRD, WHO RECENTLY VISITED EUROPE AS CARTER'S PER-
SONAL EMISSARY, SAID NATO ALLIES ARE "CONFUSED, PUZZLED
AND ALARMED" BECAUSE OF THE "MANY VOICES ON FOREIGN
POLICY."

11. HE ALSO SAID THE SENATE WILL DEBATE REPEAL OF THE
TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO NEXT WEEK. HE SAID THE "VOTES ARE
POTENTIALLY THERE TO STOP THE EMBARGO," BECAUSE IT HAS
BEEN WEAKENING NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK.

12. HE ALSO SAID HE HOPES THE SENATE FINISHES ITS WORK
ON THE ENERGY PACKAGE, A TAX-CUT BILL, CIVIL SERVICE
REFORM AND A WELFARE MEASURE. HE SAID HE FAVORS A "MOD-
ERATE" DOLS 15 BILLION TAX CUT BEGINNING IN 1979 AND A
REDUCTION IN THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX FROM 49 TO 35 PERCENT.
CHRISTOPHER

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